

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are the only independent claims. Claims 1, 7, 13, 16 and 19 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, in the Office Action, the Examiner refused to consider the Chinese reference CN-1238875-A because an English translation was not filed. However, the Information Disclosure Statement included an English translation of the foreign Office Action in which the Chinese reference was discussed in detail, for example at item 4 of the Chinese Office Action (Page 2 of the Action). In view of the above, it is believed that the requirements for consideration of the reference have been met. It is requested that an initialed copy of the SB/08 form be included with the next Office Action.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Kenji. (JP 2002-049711) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0003330 (Asgarinejad). Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 14, 16-18, 20 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Kenji in view Asgarinejad and further in view of Ushiki (EP 1355473). Applicants submit that the amended independent claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

It is noted that the Newly-cited Asgarinejad document has not been made of record on the PTO-892 form issued with the Office Action. It is respectfully requested that it be cited in the next Office Action.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, inter alia, “a storage server for storing a message of video and/or image contents, alone or along with audio contents, sent from said information terminal to said network in response to the video and/or audio data that has been distributed to the information terminal from said distribution server while said information terminal is connected to said network and for facilitating a display of the message video and/or image contents on a display at a predetermined time.”

According to amended independent claim 1, a message of video and/or image contents, which may be accompanied by audio contents, is permitted to be sent, for example by a remote attendee to a wedding or other ceremony, using the information terminal, in response to video and/or audio data that has been transmitted to the information terminal. This message is stored at a storage server. Display of the message video and/or image contents of the recited message at a predetermined time, e.g., at the time of the wedding ceremony, is facilitated.

Kenji, as discussed in the previous response, does not teach the remote attendee being able to send an video and/or image contents in response to viewing the video of the ceremony. In Kenji only text and/or audio is sent in response to the remote attendee viewing the video of the ceremony. Also as mentioned in the previous response, Kenji's photo is not sent by the terminal of the remote attendee, and is not sent in response to the remote attendee's terminal having received video and/or audio. Kenji also does not teach or suggest that display of the message video and/or image contents at a predetermined time, e.g., at the time of the wedding ceremony, is facilitated.

Newly-cited Asgarinejad relates to a system for an interactive virtual classroom. Asgarinejad is not believed to remedy the above-mentioned deficiencies of Kenji as against amended claim 1. Ushiki is cited as teaching a storage server with display means. However, applicants have found no teaching in Ushiki of facilitating the display of video and/or image contents from the recited message at a predetermined time, such as at the time of the wedding ceremony, as in amended claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, amended claim 1 is believed clearly patentable over the cited art. Amended independent claims 7, 13 and 19 recite similar features and are believed patentable for substantially similar reasons. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The other claims depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above. In view of the above, Applicants believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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